

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 8 and 9, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 10 and 11 to read as follows. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A developing apparatus comprising:

a toner carrying member for carrying toner to a developing zone where said developing apparatus faces an image bearing member; and

bias voltage applying means for applying to said toner carrying member a developing bias voltage for developing an electrostatic latent image formed on the image bearing member, wherein the developing bias voltage is in the form of a DC voltage biased with an AC voltage;

wherein when a developing operation stops while the image bearing member being electrically charged rotates, rotation of said toner carrying member is stopped ~~while rotating the image bearing member electrically charged~~, and then, the AC voltage is applied to said toner carrying member for a predetermined period of time, and thereafter, the AC bias voltage is stopped, in a condition in which regular-charge toner is urged from said toner carrying member toward the image bearing member.

2. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a waveform of the AC voltage crosses with a charged potential level of the image bearing member.

3. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the predetermined period is not less than 50msec.

4. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus according to any one of Claims 1, 2, or 3, wherein application of the DC ~~AC~~ voltage is stopped substantially simultaneously with ~~application of the DC~~ AC voltage.

5. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the developing bias voltage includes a first peak voltage for forming a substantially constant electric field for urging the regular-charge toner from said toner carrying member toward the image bearing member, and a second peak voltage for forming a substantially constant electric field for urging the regular-charge toner from the image bearing member toward said toner carrying member, wherein the AC voltage is stopped when the first peak voltage is applied.

6. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a charging polarity of the image bearing member is the same as a charging polarity of the regular-charge toner.

7. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said toner carrying member comprises a cylindrical sleeve.

Claims 8 and 9 **(Cancel)**

10. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus according to Claim 1 or 9, wherein during application of the ~~DC~~ AC bias voltage for the predetermined period of time and stopping of the ~~DC~~^{bias} AC voltage, a portion of said image bearing member, which is electrically charged to a the same polarity as ~~a polarity of the regular-charge~~ the regular-charged toner passes through the developing zone.

11. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein application of the DC voltage is stopped after application of ~~DC~~ the AC voltage is stopped.--